



The Holy Spirit: God's Empowering Presence

1. What is one thing you appreciate about the Holy Spirit?
2. This happened in Jerusalem during a festival.

On the last day, the climax of the holidays, Jesus shouted to the crowds, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 For the Scriptures declare that rivers of living water shall flow from the inmost being of anyone who believes in me.' (He was speaking of the Holy Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him; but the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet returned to his glory in heaven) (John 7:37-39 TLB).

What do you think we can learn from what Jesus said?

3. Luke tells us:

Now, it happened that while Apollos was away in Corinth, Paul made his way down through the mountains, came to Ephesus, and happened on some disciples there. The first thing he said was, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? Did you take God into your mind only, or did you also embrace him with your heart? Did he get inside you?'

'We've never even heard of that—a Holy Spirit? God within us?'

'How were you baptized, then?' asked Paul.

'In John's baptism.'

'That explains it,' said Paul. 'John preached a baptism of radical life-change so that people would be ready to receive the One coming after him, who turned out to be Jesus. If you've been baptized in John's baptism, you're ready now for the real thing, for Jesus.'

And they were. As soon as they heard of it, they were baptized in the name of the Master Jesus. Paul put his hands on their heads and the Holy Spirit entered them (Acts 19¹⁻⁶ MSG).

What do you think that tells us about the Holy Spirit?

4. How do you think we may know the Holy Spirit at work in our daily lives?
5. Have you ever felt led by the Holy Spirit?
6. How do you feel about the 'witness within?'
7. Now let's pray, asking Jesus to fill us with his Spirit.